Reimbursement Policy

Blood Brain Barrier Osmotic Disruption for Treatment of Brain Tumor (NCD 110.20)

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<tr>
<th>Policy Number</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
<th>Current Approval Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110.20</td>
<td>UnitedHealthcare Medicare Reimbursement Policy Committee</td>
<td>09/24/2014</td>
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**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

This policy is applicable to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans offered by UnitedHealthcare and its affiliates.

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare reimbursement policies use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®*), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms (CMS 1450). Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy. This information is intended to serve only as a general resource regarding UnitedHealthcare’s reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare enrollees. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: legislative mandates, the physician or other provider contracts, and/or the enrollee’s benefit coverage documents. Finally, UnitedHealthcare strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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**Table of Contents**

- Application ......................................................................................................................................1
- Summary .........................................................................................................................................2
  - Overview ....................................................................................................................................2
  - Reimbursement Guidelines .........................................................................................................2
- CPT/HCPCS Codes ...........................................................................................................................2
- References Included (but not limited to): .......................................................................................2
  - CMS NCD ....................................................................................................................................2
  - CMS LCD(s) ................................................................................................................................2
  - UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Coverage Summaries .......................................................2
- History ...........................................................................................................................................2

**Application**

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the Health Insurance Claim Form CMS-1500 or its electronic equivalent or its successor form, and services reported using facility claim form CMS-1450 or its electronic equivalent or its successor form. This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network physicians, and other health care professionals.

The HCPCS/CPT code(s) may be subject to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits. This policy does not take precedence over CCI edits. Please refer to the CCI for correct coding guidelines and specific applicable code combinations prior to billing UnitedHealthcare. It is not enough to link the procedure code to a correct, payable ICD-9-CM diagnosis code. The diagnosis must be present for the procedure to be paid. Compliance with the
provisions in this policy is subject to monitoring by pre-payment review and/or post-payment data analysis and subsequent medical review. The effective date of changes/additions/deletions to this policy is the committee meeting date unless otherwise indicated. CPT codes and descriptions are copyright 2010 American Medical Association (or such other date of publication of CPT). All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to Government use. Fee schedules, relative value units, conversion factors, and/or related components are not assigned by the AMA, are not part of CPT, and the AMA is not recommending their use. The AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. The AMA assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein. Current Dental Terminology (CDT), including procedure codes, nomenclature, descriptors, and other data contained therein, is copyright by the American Dental Association, 2002, 2004. All rights reserved. CDT is a registered trademark of the American Dental Association. Applicable FARS/DFARS apply.

Summary
Overview

The blood brain barrier (BBB) of the central nervous system is characterized by tight junctions between vascular endothelial cells, which prevent or impede various naturally occurring and synthetic substances (including anti-cancer drugs) from entering brain tissue. The BBB may be partly responsible for the poor efficacy of chemotherapy for malignant primary or metastatic brain tumors.

The BBBD is the disruption of the tight junctions between the endothelial cells that line the capillaries in the brain accomplished by osmotic disruption, bradykinin or irradiation. Theoretically, disruption of the BBB may, in the treatment of brain tumors, increase the concentration of chemotherapy drugs delivered to the tumor and may prolong the drug-tumor contact time.

Osmotic disruption of the BBB is the most common technique used. Chemotherapeutic agents are given in conjunction with barrier disruption. The BBBD process includes all items and services necessary to perform the procedure, including hospitalization, monitoring, and repeated imaging procedures.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Nationally Covered Indications
N/A

Nationally Non-Covered Indications
Effective for services performed on and after March 20, 2007, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determines that the use of osmotic BBBD is not reasonable and necessary when it is used as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors.

Other
This NCD does not alter in any manner the coverage of anti-cancer chemotherapy.

CPT/HCPCS Codes

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>64999</td>
<td>Unlisted procedure, nervous system</td>
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<tr>
<td>96549</td>
<td>Unlisted chemotherapy procedure</td>
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References Included (but not limited to):

CMS NCD
NCD 110.20 Blood Brain Barrier Osmotic Disruption for Treatment of Brain Tumors

CMS LCD(s)
Numerous LCDs

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Coverage Summaries
Blood, Blood Products and Related Procedures and Drugs
Chemotherapy, and Associated Drugs and Treatments

History

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/08/14</td>
<td>Annual Review for MRP Committee presentation and approval</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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